

School Facilities





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Introduction

The Challenge calls for us all—students, parents, educators, and communities—to embrace a simple but powerful concept: that we measure success by gains in student achievement based on standards.

—Delaine Eastin
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

It is the policy of the State Board of Education that all students in the public schools have the right to attend school on campuses that are safe and secure. The Board believes that the first step toward safer schools is the development of a comprehensive plan for school safety by every public school and district in the state. The Board intends that plans for safe schools be developed cooperatively by parents, students, teachers, administrators, counselors, and community agencies, including local law enforcement, and approved by each district's governing board.

Providing a school environment that is orderly and purposeful, where students and staff are free to learn and teach without threat of physical or psychological harm, should be a major goal of everyone with a stake in our public school system, not just the State Board of Education. The standards set forth in this publication are provided to assist planners in designing or retrofitting schools to be such environments.

Safe schools have proactive security systems and procedures, emergency response plans, and timely maintenance programs. Their campuses and classrooms present clean and attractive appearances. School pride, a feeling of affiliation, support and recognition for positive behavior, and a sense of community all combine to make for safer schools and optimum learning environments.

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